

After the Criteria discussion, participants stayed at the same tables and discussed the Goal Area they selected. One table made up of four participants discussed the Preparedness Objectives. Questions on the worksheet varied from those asked in other Goal Areas.

PREPAREDNESS

If public health trade offs were necessary due to scarce resources, what personal and community values would you see as most important in making those tradeoffs?

Participants reported that first responders and hospital personnel are a priority in a time when resources are scarce.

From whom and how do you want to hear about public health issues, before/during/after a disaster?

Participants said that for emerging infectious diseases and pandemic flu, CDC is a voice of authority. Communication from CDC would be supported by others on the state and local level. Participants stressed that CDC should coordinate with other federal agencies so that in the time of crisis they will all speak with “one voice”.

What are your expectations of CDC before/during/after a disaster?

Participants said that CDC’s job is not to protect against or prevent disaster but rather to respond better to it. Before a disaster, participants expect that CDC will do research to prevent the occurrence of disasters when possible, educate the public on procedures to follow during a disaster, and work with state health departments to develop plans to minimize the impact of the disaster. Participants also want CDC to work with other organizations and federal agencies to develop materials and protocols for special needs populations. During a disaster participants want CDC to do on the ground surveillance and to communicate directly with providers to avoid confusion about how to treat patients.

General Comment

CDC is the only agency who deals with emerging infectious diseases while other agencies deal with other environmental issues.